(a) whether Government proposes to establish common infrastructure facilities (Spice Parks) in various parts of the country during the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of spices exported from the country during 2008-09 and 2009-10 as compared to corresponding period of previous years; and

(d) the extent to which exports of Indian Spices is likely to be increased by setting up of such common infrastructure facilities centres in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the setting up six Spice Parks to establish common infrastructure facilities for cleaning, grading, processing, packing facilities etc., primarily to empower the spices farmers through value addition and quality improvement of spices, along with backward linkage in various parts of the country. These Spice Parks are at Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Sivaganga (Tamil Nadu), Puttadi, Idukki (Kerala), Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Spice park at Puttady is near completion. A Spices Park was also set up at Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh under the ASIDE scheme and has been operational since February, 2008.

(c) and (d) The extent to which establishment of Spices Parks will increase the exports can not be forecast. The export of Spices from India during 2008-09 and 2009-10 as compared to the same period of previous year is given below:—

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)	Value (MLN US$)
2007-08	444,250	4435.50	1101.80
2008-09	470,520	5300.26	1168.40
April – October, 2009	288,910	3070.35	636.04
April – October, 2008	299,275	3260.26	751.29

Source: Spice Board

Abolition of import duty on rice

2177. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has abolished import duty on rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the country-wise details of the basmati rice exported from the country during 2008-09 and 2009-10 compared to corresponding period of previous years;

(d) the estimated quantity of rice production declined in the country in current season;

(e) whether Government proposes to import non basmati rice to meet the demand of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The basic customs duty on Semi Milled or Wholly Milled Rice (Chapter Heading 100630) was reduced to nil *vide* Notification No. 118/2009-Customs dated 14th October, 2009.

(c) The country-wise details of exports of Basmati Rice (HS: 10063020) for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-July, 09) is as under:—

Quantity: in Tonnes, Value: in Rs. Lakhs

Country	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		April'09-July'09(P)*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Saudi Arab	499585	124095.96	543530	203834.60	524402	310280.84	243070	133438.25
U Arab Emts	104998	30521.18	193102	68983.28	456147	278620.50	253177	140605.49
U.K.	71412	19622.59	71378	29108.34	62563	43103.89	11047	6609.19
Yemen Rep.	40689	9321.39	49959	13715.18	31476	17515.88	24970	13383.49
U.S.A.	34502	11467.37	35789	14210.11	39625	27259.70	10074	6211.97
Belgium	24387	5481.85	13347	4927.46	6899	3836.29	1236	676.60
Netherland	18851	4605.16	17852	5949.42	11147	6529.60	2933	1648.57
Canada	15870	5778.83	13565	5754.19	17835	12007.75	4787	3222.54
Iran	15111	4617.32	4429	2033.41	170947	98075.99	210200	124106.16
Germany	11404	3171.40	10797	4199.11	5045	3380.44	1164	891.72
Italy	9943	2468.02	10847	3814.25	3284	1995.14	1279	681.09
Australia	7806	2642.72	5365	2182.18	6999	4723.08	1859	1313.25
Mauritius	7152	2021.55	9675	3189.52	6529	3614.26	1870	1045.38
Others	184005	53465.55	203771	72557.07	213513	136759.62	89759	64108.97
Total	1045715	2792089	1183356	4344682	1556411	9470298	857425	4794267

Source: DGCIS; *Purely Provisional and subject to change.

(d) As per the First Advance Estimates of Kharif Production; released by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the production of rice in Kharif Crop 2009-10 is estimated to be 151 lakh tonnes lower than Rice Production in Kharif crop last year.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Government has assessed the stock position of rice and decided that

import of rice for Central Pool is not required at this stage. However, if trend of procurement shows shortfall, the Government may, at an appropriate time, decide to consider import of rice to ensure availability of rice in the domestic market at affordable price.

Separate FTA's with Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia

2178. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in addition to Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) the Competent Authority is negotiating additional and separate FTAs with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of above negotiations;

(c) whether steps be taken to consult with the State Governments before finalizing above agreements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) India is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Thailand and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Malaysia.

(c) and (d) Domestic consultations are being held through various rounds of Inter-Ministerial meetings and stakeholders dialogues.

(e) Question does not arise.

National Design Policy

2179. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Design Policy and how it helps in promoting "Made in India" brand abroad;

(b) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received by Ministry for setting up of National Institute of Design; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The National Design Policy was approved by the Government on 8th February, 2007. The salient features of the Policy include:—

- Preparation of a platform for creative design development